

New Jersey Ghana and South Africa

Trade and Business Mission



FAST FACTS: REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Geography

Located on West Africa's Gulf of Guinea, a few degrees north of the Equator. Half of Ghana is less than 500 feet above sea level. The highest elevation is 2,900 feet.

Climate

Tropical. The eastern coastal belt is warm and comparatively dry; the southwest corner, hot and humid; and the north, hot and dry. Rainy seasons in the south is May–June and August–September; in the north rainy seasons tend to merge.

A dry, northeasterly wind, the Harmattan, blows in January and February. Annual rainfall in the coastal zone averages 33 inches. Volta Lake is the largest manmade lake in the world.

The lake generates electricity, provides inland transportation, and is a potentially valuable resource for irrigation and fish farming.

Economy

Imports were \$2.83 billion (f.o.b., 2000). Imports commodities include capital equipment, petroleum and foodstuffs. Trading partners include the UK, Nigeria, US, Germany, Italy, Spain (1998). Import-substitution industries include textiles; steel (using scrap); tires; oil refining; flour milling; beverages; tobacco; simple consumer goods; and car, truck, and bus assembly.

By West African standards, Ghana has a diverse and rich resource base. The country is mainly agricultural. Cash crops consist primarily of cocoa and cocoa products, which typically provide about two-thirds of export revenues. Minerals—principally gold, diamonds, manganese ore, and bauxite—are produced and exported. Ghana's industrial base is relatively advanced compared to many other African countries.

Tourism has become one of Ghana's largest foreign income earners (ranking third in 2000), and the Ghanaian Government has placed great emphasis upon further tourism support and development.



Natural Resources

Gold, timber, industrial diamonds, bauxite, manganese, fish, rubber, and hydropower generation. Ghana has roughly twice the per capita output of the poorer countries in West Africa. Even so, Ghana remains heavily dependent on international financial and technical assistance. Gold, timber, and cocoa production are major sources of foreign exchange.

U.S. Embassy

Ambassador Nancy J. Powell. The U.S. Embassy is located on Ring Road East, near Danquah Circle, Accra.

Telephone 233-21-775347/8/9

P.O. Box 194

Accra, Ghana.

For American citizen services and visa questions, the embassy consular section telephone number is 233-21-776602.

Americans visiting Ghana are encouraged to register at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ghana and obtain updated information on travel and security within

Detailed information of the Republic of Ghana can be found on the U.S. Department of State Web Site www.state.gov/p/af/ci/gh and the Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook 2002 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/index.html>

the country. The Embassy maintains a Web Site at <http://usembassy.state.gov/ghana/>

Entry/Exit Requirements

A passport and visa are required, as is evidence of a yellow fever vaccination.

Travelers should obtain the latest information and details from the Embassy of Ghana,
3512 International Drive, NW
Washington, DC 20008
telephone (202)686-4520
website <http://www.ghana-embassy.org>

or from the Ghanaian Consulate General
19 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
telephone (212) 832-1300.

U.S. Relations

The United States has enjoyed good relations with Ghana at the nonofficial, personal level since Ghana's independence.

Thousands of Ghanaians have been educated in the United States. Close relations are maintained between educational and scientific institutions, and cultural links, particularly between Ghanaians and African-Americans, are strong.

Safety and Security

Due to the potential for violence, U.S. citizens should exercise caution and maintain security awareness at all times. Now, American citizens are urged to avoid unnecessary travel to the Northern Region of Ghana.

Medical Facilities

Medical facilities are limited, particularly outside Accra, the capital.

Medical Insurance

The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation.

U.S. medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased.

Useful information on medical emergencies abroad, including overseas insurance programs, is provided in the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs brochure Medical Information for Americans Traveling Abroad, available via the Bureau of Consular Affairs home page or autofax: (202) 647-3000.

Other Health Information

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at telephone 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299); or by visiting the CDC Internet home page at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease. Chloroquine-resistant *P. falciparum* malaria is a severe form of the disease that is found in many parts of western Africa, including Ghana. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined For additional information on malaria, protection from insect bites, and antimalarials, please see the CDC Travelers' Health website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/malaria>.

Customs Restrictions

Visitors entering or departing Ghana with more than \$5,000 cash are required to declare the amount upon entry into Ghana. Currency exchange is available at most banks and at licensed foreign exchange bureaus.

Currency transactions with private citizens are illegal. The Government of Ghana also prohibits departing travelers from carrying more than 5,000 Cedis out of the country.

Photography Restrictions

Taking pictures near sensitive installations, including military sites and government buildings, is prohibited. These sites are not always clearly marked, and application of these restrictions is subject to interpretation. Permission may be obtained from Ghanaian security personnel. Permission should also be obtained before taking photographs of anyone in uniform (police officers and military officers, for example). In some instances, film and cameras have been confiscated.

Clothing Prohibitions

Wearing any military apparel, such as camouflage jackets or trousers, or any clothing or items which may appear military in nature, is strictly prohibited.